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Remarks

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above referenced case on July 9, 2004. Claims 1-28 are presented below for examination. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 12-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freivald et al. (U.S. 5,898,836 04/27/99), hereinafter Freivald. Claims 3-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freivald in view of the WC3 publication, hereinafter WC3. Applicant has carefully studied the prior art presented by the Examiner in this case, and the Examiner's rejections and statements of the instant office Action.

In response, applicant believes that the prior art cited and applied by the Examiner in rejection of applicant's base claims, is easily overcome by the teachings of the invention of the instant application, as embodied in limitations recited in the independent claims in their present unamended form. Applicant provides argument below detailing such advantageous distinctions of applicant's invention over that of the prior art presented, clearly demonstrating that the teachings in the prior art presented, taking either singly or in combination, fail to meet the criteria for a proper obviousness rejection.

However, applicant does herein slightly amend the language of the independent claims, not necessarily to overcome the prior art presented by further limiting the claims; rather, the purpose of the amendments are to slightly broaden the recitation of the data file created and stored upon failure of a test network navigation and interaction routine, and to more clearly and specifically recite network navigation and interaction templates and routines. For convenience, applicant reproduces claim 1 below as amended.

Claim 1 as amended now recites:

1. (currently amended) A software application for enabling automated notification of applied structural changes to electronic information pages hosted on a data packet network comprising:

a developer-interface module for enabling developers to build and modify network navigation and interaction templates using functional logic blocks, for navigating to an interacting with interactive electronic information pages;

a navigation system-interface module for integrating the software application to a proxy-navigation system for periodic execution of the templates;

a change-notification module for indicating a point in process where a navigation and interaction routine has failed and for creating a data file containing parameters associated with the failed routine; and

a database interface module for interfacing the software application to a data repository for storing the data file, wherein the software application periodically submits test navigation and interaction routines to the navigation system for execution by virtue of the interface with the navigation system, and upon failure of a test routine, creates the data file, the data file comprising a point-of-failure indication within the failed routine, an identifier of the associated electronic information page subjected to the navigation routine, and stores the data file in the data repository sending notification of the action to the developer.

Independent claims 12 and 18 recite applicant's change-notification system and method for receiving change notification in accordance with the limitations of independent claim 1, and are accordingly amended similarly to claim 1.

In the Examiner's remarks the Examiner has stated that, regarding claims 1 and 12, Freivald teaches applicant's software application for automated notification of structural changes in Web pages hosted on a network comprising substantially all of applicant's recited limitations, including an interface (Fig. 1: 24) for building and modifying navigation templates (col. 3, lines 64-67, col. 4, lines 1-6), periodic execution of said templates (Fig. 1: 24), (col. 4, lines 11-22), and a change-notification (col. 4, lines 15-22) for indicating a point in the process where a navigation routine has failed, and for creating a data file associated with the failed routine.

Applicant wishes to direct the Examiner's focus on applicant's specific claim language in claim 1 as amended, which now more clearly recites network navigation and interaction templates and routines. The claim now specifically recites a developer-interface module enabling developers to build and modify navigation templates for navigating to an interacting with interactive electronic information pages. Applicant believes that the reference of Freivald fundamentally fails in teaching or suggesting network navigation and interaction scripts and templates for detecting changes in the electronic information pages of the network.

Now directing the Examiner's attention to the reference of Freivald, and the Examiner's statements in the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner has stated that Freivald teaches an interface for enabling a plurality of users to build and modify navigation templates as well as periodic execution of said templates, suggesting that Freivald's teaching of registering URLs to a server for retrieving documents for change comparisons, teaches or suggests applicant's limitation. The Examiner further contends that Freivald teaches applicant's change-notification indicating a point in the process where a navigation routine has failed, indicating that Freivald's indication of a "change has occurred" reads on this specific limitation.

Applicant must respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of the art of Freivald in reading on applicant's claims, particularly as slightly amended herein to more clearly recite the subject matter regarded as patentable.

Firstly, applicant must respectfully point out to the Examiner that Freivald clearly teaches an alternative invention for solving an alternative problem, and at the time of the invention Freivald would therefore have no motivation for the changes espoused by the Examiner. Specifically, Freivald simply teaches manually retrieving a document from a server, comparing the checksum of the fresh document to that of a stored original checksum of the document, to identify the change portion(s) of the document. The source document for which the change identification is to be performed, is specified by the client manually entering the URL for the document stored at the server, thereby "registering" the URL to the server. The expected outcome of Freivald's invention is to identify changed portions of a source document, i.e. identifying and storing "revision changes" to the document, in other words.

In contrast, applicant's invention teaches features and functionality which are clearly distinctive over those taught in Freivald, one obvious distinction being that Freivald fails to teach or suggest building or modifying network navigation templates and sessions, for identifying failures in the navigation and interaction sessions. Freivald teaches nothing to do with detecting failures in a navigation and interaction session, Freivald simply teaches detecting changes in documents, not in the actual session of navigating to and through Web sites, for identifying at what point in the navigation or interaction that the failure occurred, as in applicant's invention. Freivald actually teaches nothing whatsoever to do with failures in a network navigation or interaction session, and therefore has no motivation for identifying session failures. Applicant argues that applicant's

navigation and interaction session failure detection feature is then clearly nonobvious over Freivald, as contended by the Examiner.

Further to the above, although Freivald does teach periodic retrieval of the document for which the client wishes to identify the revision changes, Freivald clearly fails to teach applicant's specific limitation in claim 1, reciting a navigation system-interface module for integrating the software application to a proxynavigation system for periodic execution of the templates. Freivald teaches periodic retrieval of the document to capture the revision changes before they may affect the client, but the client still initiates the URL pointing to the desired document for change identification.

Referring now to applicant's Fig. 11, and description in the specification beginning on page 54, a method and apparatus is provided for detecting the changes or updates to Web sites and affecting efficient and timely creation and repairs to the instruction templates, which are used for proxy navigation to and interaction with the Web sites. Applicant's invention teaches creating "dummy", or test templates by virtue of software executing at computer stations 247,249 and 251 of Fig 11, which direct the navigation to and interaction with the electronic information pages. The test, or "dummy" routines, or scripts, may execute simultaneously with real, or actual routines, and actually simulate a user registering to, logging into, or otherwise interfacing with an interactive electronic information page, in this case a Web site. Changes and updates in the architecture of the Web site which caused the test (or real) script to fail somewhere in the session attempt, are monitored and detected, which could include changes affecting navigation to and/or interaction with an interactive Web site. In this way the developers may quickly, even in real-time, affect the repairs to the navigation and interaction templates based on the detected changes of the architecture of the electronic page subjected to the test session.

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Applicant's invention, again with reference to Fig. 11, the software application (SW) 243 residing within navigation server to 41 providing a unique monitoring and flagging service which uses the navigation templates, as discussed above, to sample the electronic information pages in order to determine if any changes have occurred which may interrupt normal proxy navigation routines. Any actual or sample navigation scripts flag the first encountered error in the session that resulted in a failure to complete the session. The data provided to the developer includes information as to where in the process of the session the error causing the session failure occurred, so as to greatly aid the developer to quickly and easily identify the change of architecture of the target Web site, and create or repair the session script in the most timely and efficient manner. The result is a network navigation and interaction session which is seamless for the user on behalf of which the proxy server navigates to and interacts with the Web site, because the Web site architecture changes and updates are detected before they are able to affect the actual user navigation and other interfaces, by virtue of the test or "dummy" scripts periodically testing the navigation and interaction sequence(s), and monitoring, storing and analyzing the returned update and change data, for identifying the error, and thereby the point in the session in which the error occurred, which resulted in a failed session attempt. Applicant believes that it has been clearly demonstrated that the reference of Freivald fails as a primary reference in substantially teaching or suggesting the key and patentable limitations of applicant's base claims as judicially amended and argued above. Freivald lacks sufficient teaching and motivation for producing or suggesting all of the features and capabilities of applicant's invention, as embodied in the independent claims. Claims 1, 12 and 18 are therefore clearly and unarguably patentable over Freivald.

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Claims 3-11 are rejected as being unpatentable over Freivald in view of the WC3 publication, which the Examiner relies on in combination with Freivald for teaching the aspect of automated site-login blocks and registration blocks, stating that these are aspects well-known the art. As argued above on behalf of the independent claims, Freivald fails as a primary reference in combination of references fails to produce or suggest, or have motivation for all of the aspects of applicant's invention as claimed. Claims 3-11 are all depending claims, which are then patentable on their own merits, or at least has depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims standing for examination have been shown to be patentable as amended over the art of record, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, and that the present case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,

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